

BEAVERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 6.06.00
SUBJECT: TASERS
EFFECTIVE: AUGUST 15, 2003
REVIEW: AUGUST 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008

1. PURPOSE. The Taser is another alternative in the Use of Force Continuum (General Order 6.01.00) that may be used in circumstances to de-escalate a potentially dangerous situation with a reduced potential for death or serious physical injury to all persons involved. Taser deployment is described as “less lethal”.

2. POLICY. The Training Division will train select department personnel on the use of the Taser. This policy provides personnel, trained in using Tasers, with direction as to use, deployment, storage, and suspect care.

3. DEFINITION. The Taser delivers electrical energy by using compressed air to fire two probes from a detachable cartridge on the front of the gun. The probes are attached to the cartridge by insulated light gauge wire. Once fired, the probes attach to the subject.

A. The Taser may also be used in a “touch” or “drive” stun mode using a spent cartridge or no cartridge on the front of the Taser gun, to make physical contact with a subject and deliver energy.

4. USE. Tasers are Department issued items, and are to be used only by trained Department personnel.

A. The Taser may be used in circumstances where a person displays the intent to engage in violent, aggressive actions; displays the intent to engage in suicidal behavior; or displays the intent to engage in physical resistance to a lawful police action.

B. Officers deploying the Taser, operationally, WHEN feasible, should be supported by at least one cover officer.

C. The use of the Taser is not mandatory when the developing situation, per the Force Continuum, does not allow the necessary circumstances or time for the officer(s) to transition to the deployment of less lethal equipment.

- D. Should the Taser prove ineffective in de-escalating the situation, and the incident develops into deadly force, the Use of Deadly Physical Force General Order (6.02.00) will supercede this General Order.
5. DEPLOYMENT.
- A. Officers will WHEN feasible, provide a warning to the subject before using the Taser. The warning should be an explicit statement such as, “Stop, get on the ground, or you will be Tasered”.
 - B. Officers should announce to cover officers that the Taser is being deployed. A verbal notification such as, “TASER – TASER – TASER,” should be used.
 - C. The Taser may be deployed multiple times on the same subject if the officer reasonably believes the use necessary to take the suspect into custody.
6. ACTIONS FOLLOWING THE USE OF THE TASER.
- A. MEDICAL TREATMENT.
- 1) When the Taser is deployed on a person, EMS personnel will be summoned to the scene and/or police station and will evaluate the subject’s need for medical treatment. Medical personnel will remove Taser probes, which lodge in a subject’s skin. Trained police personnel may remove probes if the situation warrants.
 - 2) Following the operational discharge of the Taser, it is the responsibility of the deploying officer to collect the Taser probes and dispose of them in a suitable container at the police department. Officers will use biohazard precautions when handling Taser probes that were removed from a subject.
 - 3) Officers will photograph the areas of the probe strikes if possible, before and after probe removal. Consent should be obtained before photographing personally sensitive areas. All photographs of probe strikes will be placed into evidence. These photographs are for the purpose of documenting the existing or lack of physical injury.
7. NOTIFICATION AND REPORTING.
- A. The officer discharging a Taser operationally, will, as soon as practical, verbally notify an on duty supervisor.
 - B. An officer using a Taser on a subject will complete a Beaverton Police Physical Control Report as well as the Taser Database Report documenting the circumstances of the Taser deployment prior to the end of their shift. The

report shall be filled out completing all necessary information, which includes: nature of incident, verbal warnings, distances and number of times/cycles the Taser was deployed. This report shall also include if EMS responded and the results of any medical evaluation.

8. RESPONSIBILITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND CONTROL.

- A. Officers carrying the Taser shall ensure the Taser batteries are fully charged at the beginning of each shift. Officers carrying the Taser shall ensure the battery packs are placed in a charger when not in use.
- B. Tasers will be carried in designated carrying cases with backup cartridges, as well as a holster.
- C. Supervisors shall ensure all pertinent information is documented in the appropriate reports, and all appropriate evidence is collected, following the use of a Taser.
- D. The Training Division is responsible for the procurement, maintenance, and issuance of the Tasers and associated equipment to the patrol division. The Training Sergeant is responsible for the training and re-certification of officers in the use of the Taser. The Training Sergeant is responsible for evaluating the Taser program, review of the Taser database reports and the Taser data collection.

Chief of Police

Date